

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/885,945

Examiner

Mark R. Milia

Applicant(s)

OKUYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received on 9/21/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

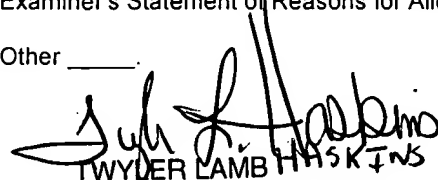
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TWYLER LAMB HASKINS

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 9/21/07 and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claim 8 is pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The cancellation of claims 1-7 has overcome the rejection of claims 4 and 5 set forth in the previous Office Action. Therefore the rejection has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. The cancellation of claims 1-7 has overcome the rejection of claim 7 set forth in the previous Office Action. Therefore the rejection has been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see pages 4-7 of the remarks, filed 9/21/07, with respect to claim 8 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-7 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Dutton on 12/7/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

Regarding claim 8, all the reference numerals, which are found in parentheses, are to be removed.

Regarding claim 8, in the third to last limitation which starts "said character display screen (40) including edit buttons to operate said...", the phrase "said character display screen (40) should be changed to "said card layout generation screen", so that the entire limitation reads, "said card layout generation screen including edit buttons to operate said card layout information input means, to position said one of said specific characters, and to position said card layout information;"

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 8 is allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other limitations in the claims), said character selection screen including a cursor to select said one of said specific characters, a select button to trigger said character data selection means when selecting said one of said specific characters, a cancel button to cancel selection of said one of said specific characters, and an enter button to enter said one of said specific characters; card layout information input means adapted to input card layout information, said one of said specific characters and card layout information being displayed on a character display screen different from said character selection screen, said character display screen being presented upon user-selection of said one of said specific characters; card display image information generation means adapted to generate card display image information, said card display image information being displayed on a card layout generation screen different from said character display screen, said card display image information specifying a positioning on said card of said one of said specific characters and card layout information, said character display screen including edit buttons to operate said card layout information input means, to position Said one of said specific characters, and to position said card layout information, as set forth in claim(s) 8.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

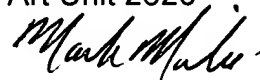
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Haskins can be reached at (571) 272-7406. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MRM

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